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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

7590 03/25/2011
Pillsbury Winthrop LLP
Intellectual Property Group
Suite 2800
725 South Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90017-5406

EXAMINER

CHU, KIM KWOK

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2627

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2011

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/643,422 | 08/19/2003 | Katsuaki Tanaka | P 0305422 H7959US | 4553 |

TITLE OF INVENTION: SOUND RECORDING/REPRODUCING METHOD AND APPARATUS

| APPLN. TYPE | SMALL ENTITY | ISSUE FEE DUE | PUBLICATION FEE DUE | PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE | TOTAL FEE(S) DUE | DATE DUE |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------|
| nonprovisional | NO | \$1510 | \$300 | \$0 | \$1810 | 06/27/2011 |

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail** **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
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 or **Fax** **(571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

7590 03/25/2011
 Pillsbury Winthrop LLP
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 Suite 2800
 725 South Figueroa Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90017-5406

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

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|--------------------|
| (Depositor's name) |
| (Signature) |
| (Date) |

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| nonprovisional | NO | \$1510 | \$300 | \$0 | \$1810 | 06/27/2011 |

| EXAMINER | ART UNIT | CLASS-SUBCLASS |
|---------------|----------|----------------|
| CHU, KIM KWOK | 2627 | 369-047160 |

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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| EXAMINER |
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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2627

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2011

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 103 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 103 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/643,422

Applicant(s)

TANAKA ET AL.

Examiner

Kim-Kwok CHU

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 1/14/2011.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 13-16 and 43-46 which are renumbered as 1-12 respectively.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/55/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

/William J. Klimowicz/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2627

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Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-4, 13-16 and 43-46 are allowable over prior art.
2. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter based on the Amendment filed on January 14, 2011:

Regarding Claim 1, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a sound recording/reproducing method in a sound recording/reproducing apparatus for recording sound data onto a recording medium and reproducing the sound data from the recording medium having the following steps:

a rule table creation step of creating a rule table that associates the attribute information and digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters, each of the digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters being previously stored in the sound recording/reproducing apparatus and designating a sound field process or a frequency characteristic process, the sound field process or the frequency characteristic process being performed on a digital signal processor of a connected amplifier apparatus;

a step of using, when a model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of the rule table and a model of the amplifier apparatus that is currently

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connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus coincide with each other, the DSP program parameter acquired from the rule table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process;

a step of using, when the model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of the rule table differs from the model of the amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus, a DSP program parameter acquired from the rule table and a DSP program parameter corresponding to the amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus from a DSP program associating table that associates DSP program parameters of a plurality of amplifier apparatuses, and using the DSP program parameter acquired from the DSP program associating table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process; and

a DSP program parameter setting step of setting the DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition step, in the digital signal processor of the amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus.

As in claim 13, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a sound recording/reproducing method in a sound

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recording/reproducing apparatus for recording sound data onto a recording medium and reproducing the sound data from the recording medium having the following features:

an attribute information recording section that records, onto the recording medium, attribute information on sound data of a music piece that are to be recorded onto the recording medium;

a rule table creation section that creates a rule table that associates the attribute information, digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters and processing start times, each of the digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters being previously stored in the sound recording/reproducing apparatus and designating a sound field process or a frequency characteristic process, the sound field process or the frequency characteristic process to be performed on a digital signal processor in a connected amplifier apparatus, each of the processing start times designating a time when the sound field process or the frequency characteristic process is started;

a DSP program parameter acquisition section that, at a time of reproduction when sound data of a music piece to be reproduced, read out from the recording medium, are to be outputted to the amplifier apparatus which is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus,

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acquires, from the recording medium attribute information of sound data to be reproduced and acquires, from the rule table, any of the DSP program parameters that corresponds to the attribute information on the sound data;

a section that uses, when a model of an amplifier apparatus, that is the object of control during creation of the rule table and a model of the amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus coincide with each other, the DSP program parameter acquired from the rule table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process;

a DSP program associating table associating DSP program parameters of a plurality of amplifier apparatus;

a section that acquires, when the model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of the rule table differs from the model of the amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus, a DSP program parameter corresponding to the amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus from the DSP program associating table, and uses the DSP program parameter acquired from the DSP program associating table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process; and

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a DSP program parameter setting section that sets the DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process, in the digital signal processor of the amplifier apparatus currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus.

As in claim 43, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a sound recording/reproducing method in a sound recording/reproducing apparatus for recording sound data onto a recording medium and reproducing the sound data from the recording medium having the following features:

an attribute information recording step of recording, onto the recording medium, attribute information on sound data of a music piece that are to be recorded onto the recording medium;

a rule table creation step of creating a rule table that associates the attribute information, digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters and processing start times, each of the digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters being previously stored in the sound recording/reproducing apparatus designating a sound field process or a frequency characteristic process, the sound field process or the frequency characteristic process to be performed on a digital signal processor in a connected amplifier apparatus, each of the processing start times designating a time when the sound field process or the

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frequency characteristic process is started; a DSP program parameter acquisition step of, at a time of reproduction when sound data of a music piece to be reproduced, read out from the recording medium, are to be outputted to the amplifier apparatus which is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus, acquiring, from the rule table, any of the DSP program parameters that corresponds to the attribute information on the sound data and corresponds to any one of the processing start times that has coincided with an elapsed reproducing time of the sound data;

a step of using, when the model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of the rule table and the model of the amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus coincide with each other, the DSP program parameter acquired from the rule table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process;

a step of acquiring, when the model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of the rule table differs from the model of the amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus,

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a DSP program parameter acquired from the rule table and a DSP program parameter corresponding to the amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus from a DSP program associating table that associates DSP program parameters of a plurality of amplifier apparatuses, and using the DSP program parameter acquired from the DSP program associating table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process.

As in claim 44, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a sound recording/reproducing apparatus having the following features:

a recording medium on which sound data can be recorded and reproduced; an attribute information recording section that records, onto the recording medium, attribute information on sound data of a music piece that are to be recorded onto the recording medium;

a rule table creation section that creates a rule table that associates digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters, each of the digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters being previously stored in the sound recording/reproducing apparatus and designating a sound field process or a frequency characteristic process, the sound field process or the frequency characteristic process being performed

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on a digital signal processor in a connected amplifier apparatus;

a DSP program parameter acquisition section that, at a time of reproduction when sound data of a music piece to be reproduced, read out from the recording medium, are to be outputted to the external amplifier apparatus which is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus, acquires, from the rule table, any of the DSP program parameters that corresponds to the attribute information of sound data of a music piece to be reproduced and corresponds to a process start time which coincides with an elapsed reproducing time of the sound data;

a DSP program parameter setting section that sets the DSP program parameter, acquired from the rule table, in the digital signal processor of the amplifier apparatus which is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus;

a section that uses, when the model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of the rule table and the model of the amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus coincide with each other, the DSP program parameter acquired from the rule table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process;

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a DSP program associating table associating DSP program parameters of a plurality of amplifier apparatus; and

a section that acquires, when the model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of the rule table differs from the model of the amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus,

a DSP program parameter acquired from the rule table and a DSP program parameter corresponding to the amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus from the DSP program associating table as a DSP program parameter acquired from the DSP program associating table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process, wherein

the DSP program parameter setting section sets the DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process, in the digital signal processor of the amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus.

As in claim 45, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a sound recording/reproducing method in a sound recording/reproducing apparatus for recording sound data onto a

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recording medium and reproducing the sound data from the recording medium having the following steps:

an attribute information recording step of recording, onto the recording medium, attribute information on sound data of a music piece that are to be recorded onto the recording medium;

a rule table creation step of creating a rule table that associates the attribute information and digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters, each of the digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters being previously stored in the sound recording/reproducing apparatus and designating a sound field process or a frequency characteristic process, the sound field process or the frequency characteristic process being performed on a digital signal processor in a connected amplifier apparatus;

a DSP program parameter acquisition step of, at a time of reproduction when sound data of a music piece to be reproduced, read out from the recording medium, are to be outputted to the amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus, acquiring, from the recording medium, the attribute information on the sound data of the music piece to be reproduced and acquiring, from the rule table, any of the DSP program parameters that corresponds to the attribute information;

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a step of using, when a model of an amplifier apparatus that is the object of control during creation of the rule table and a model of the amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus coincide with each other, the DSP program parameter acquired from the rule table as a DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition process; and

a DSP program parameter setting step of setting the DSP program parameter after completion of the acquisition step, in the digital signal processor of the amplifier apparatus that is currently connected to the sound recording/reproducing apparatus.

As in claim 46, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a sound recording/reproducing method in a sound recording/reproducing apparatus having the following steps:

a rule table creation section that creates a rule table that associates the attribute information, digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters and processing start times, each of the digital signal processor (DSP) program parameters being previously stored in the sound recording/reproducing apparatus and designating a sound field process or a frequency characteristic process, the sound field process or the frequency characteristic process being performed on a digital signal

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processor in a connected amplifier apparatus, each of the processing start times designating a time when the sound field process or the frequency characteristic process is started;

a DSP program parameter acquisition section step of, at a time of reproduction when sound data of a music piece to be reproduced, read out from the recording medium, are to be outputted to the amplifier apparatus, acquiring, from the recording medium, the attribute information on the sound data of the music piece to be reproduced and acquiring, from the rule table, any of the DSP program parameters that corresponds to the attribute information; and

a DSP program parameter setting step of setting the DSP program parameter, acquired from the rule table, in the digital signal processor of the amplifier apparatus.

The features indicated above, in combination with the other elements of the claims, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the prior art of record.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Kim CHU whose telephone number is (571) 272-7585 between 9:30 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoa Nguyen, can be reached on (571) 272-7579.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300

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